

## Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's



## Capitol Report



### Texas Demographics Continue to Shift Toward A Latino Majority

Over the last decade, Texas' explosive growth has been fueled by a boom in its minority population, which accounted for 89 percent of the total increase in population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Hispanics alone accounted for 65 percent of the state's growth over the last ten years.

Texas, the second largest state by Hispanic population, saw the largest numeric increase in Hispanic population from 2012 to 2013, as it grew by 213,000 people. Specifically, Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston have each exceeded the population growth of any metropolitan area in the U.S. between 2010 and 2014, including New York; And that growth was largely fueled by Latinos.

The census figures continue to reflect a longstanding trend of Hispanic growth in Texas and across the United States. In Texas, Hispanic population grew by 5.3 percent between 2010 and 2012 and approaches 10 million. Nationally, the Hispanic population grew to 53 million, a 5.1 percent increase. The continued Hispanic growth isn't likely to slow anytime soon, as the white population gets older and younger Hispanic population with higher birth rates continues to expand.

Additionally, the dramatic Hispanic population growth has allowed for 34 of Texas' 36 congressional districts to gain Hispanic population between 2010 and 2012. As other districts lost white, black and Asian populations, the state's Hispanic growth has remained on an upward slope.

**"The rapid Hispanic population growth in Texas creates an unrivaled opportunity to transform the political landscape in Texas. The Latino numbers in Texas certainly indicate a growing electoral power in years to come,"** stated Rep. Roberto Alonzo.



### Nov. 2015 Ballot: Proposition 7

Proposition 7, a proposed amendment to be submitted at the general election today, would add sec. 7-c to Art. 8 of the Texas Constitution, directing up to \$2.5 billion of any sales tax proceeds in excess of \$28 billion to the state highway fund in each fiscal year starting with 2018 and ending with 2032. Also, this amendment would direct 35 percent of any motor vehicle sales, use, and rental tax proceeds in excess of \$5 billion to the state highway fund.

Proposition 7 would provide a steady, consistent funding course for transportation projects across the state by dedicating a portion of taxes to the state highway fund. Because the dedication could be temporarily reduced with a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate, the proposed amendment would accomplish these goals without unnecessarily tying the hands of the Legislature or compromising the state's ability to fund critical state services.



### Dallas Commits to Renewable Energy

Last week, the Environment Protection Agency announced that Dallas uses the most renewable energy of any city in the country thanks to the purchase of wind energy credits. City Leaders approved a contract in June with energy provider TXU requiring that half of the energy for the city operations come from renewable resources. Dallas also paid Invenergy Renewable \$1.3 million to buy credits for the other 50 percent of operations, so the city has credit for 100 percent renewable energy.

**"Congratulations to Dallas for committing to 100 percent renewable energy! Our city is a shining example of what renewable energy should look like and hopefully this example will spread. With Dallas' dedication and investment, there is no doubt in how truly great the outcomes of renewable energy are,"** Stated Rep. Alonzo.